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Chem-Bio News

1. 'SOVEREIGNTY' THAT RISKS GLOBAL HEALTH: *"Here's a concept you've probably never heard of: "viral sovereignty."*

2. HHS EVALUATES PROPOSALS FOR NEW ANTHRAX VACCINE: *"Two Maryland pharmaceutical companies recently announced that they have submitted proposals to produce and deliver at least 25 million doses of a next-generation anthrax vaccine to the nation's Strategic National Stockpile."*

3. NYC HOPES TO SCREEN AUTOS FOR RADIATION: *"Operation Sentinel" would deploy radiation scanners at every bridge and tunnel into the city and would record license plate information as well."*

4. U.S. TO EXTEND LAX RADIATION STANDARDS FOR "DIRTY BOMB," NUCLEAR EMERGENCY RESPONSE, CRITICS SAY: *"The Bush administration plans to use controversial radiation standards to guide the Environmental Protection Agency's response to radiological emergencies, including "dirty bombs," the Superfund Report disclosed yesterday."*

5. ADVANCED LIFE SCIENCES AWARDED U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIODEFENSE CONTRACT VALUED AT UP TO \$3.8 MILLION: *"The contract, part of the agency's Transformational Medical Technologies Initiative (TMTI), will fund NDA-enabling studies evaluating cethromycin's efficacy in combating Category A and B bioterror agents such as *Francisella tularensis* (tularemia), *Yersinia pestis* (plague) and *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (melioidosis)."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

'SOVEREIGNTY' THAT RISKS GLOBAL HEALTH

By Richard Holbrooke and Laurie Garrett

WashingtonPost.com

August 10, 2008

"Here's a concept you've probably never heard of: "viral sovereignty." This extremely dangerous idea comes to us courtesy of Indonesia's minister of health, Siti Fadilah Supari, who asserts that deadly viruses are the sovereign property of individual nations -- even though they cross borders and could pose a pandemic threat to all the peoples of the world. So far "viral sovereignty" has been noted almost exclusively by health experts. Political leaders around the world should take note -- and take very strong action."

"A year ago, Supari's assertions about "viral sovereignty" seemed to be odd yet individual

views. Disturbingly, however, the notion has morphed into a global movement, fueled by self-destructive, anti-Western sentiments. In May, Indian Health Minister A. Ramadoss endorsed the concept in a dispute with Bangladesh. The Non-Aligned Movement -- a 112-nation organization that is a survivor of the Cold War era -- has agreed to consider formally endorsing the concept of "viral sovereignty" at its November meeting.

Indonesia argues that a nation's right to control all information on locally discovered viruses should be protected through the same mechanisms that the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization uses to guarantee poor countries' rights of ownership and patents on the seeds of its indigenous plants. Under the FAO seed accord, a nation can register plants, share their seeds and derive profits from products made from the botanicals. This useful policy reduces exploitative practices that sometimes enable multinational corporations and wealthy governments to obtain outrageous profits from indigenous agriculture."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/08/AR2008080802919.html>

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HHS EVALUATES PROPOSALS FOR NEW ANTHRAX VACCINE

By Lisa Schnirring

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)

August 12, 2008

"Two Maryland pharmaceutical companies recently announced that they have submitted proposals to produce and deliver at least 25 million doses of a next-generation anthrax vaccine to the nation's Strategic National Stockpile.

Both companies—Emergent BioSolutions, based in Rockville, and PharmAthene, based in Annapolis—announced in Jul 31 statements that they submitted responses to a request for proposal (RFP) from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The RFP was issued in February and seeks 25 million doses of recombinant protective antigen (rPA) anthrax vaccine, based on a key anthrax protein, with a shelf life of at least 2 years."

"The contract would require companies to secure Food and Drug Administration approval for the rPA anthrax vaccine. Initially, the vaccine would be used for pre-exposure prophylaxis in adults, with a future label extension to allow postexposure prophylaxis alongside antibiotics.

Federal officials said they expect to award the contract to one or more companies, based on available funding, by late September."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/aug1208vaccine-jw.html>

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NYC HOPES TO SCREEN AUTOS FOR RADIATION

Global Security Newswire

August 13, 2008

"The New York City Police Department has begun to develop a plan to screen all automobiles entering Manhattan for radioactive materials."

"Operation Sentinel" would deploy radiation scanners at every bridge and tunnel into the city and would record license plate information as well."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_8_12.html#D00FF1D3

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U.S. TO EXTEND LAX RADIATION STANDARDS FOR "DIRTY BOMB," NUCLEAR EMERGENCY RESPONSE, CRITICS SAY

Global Security Newswire

August 13, 2008

"The Bush administration plans to use controversial radiation standards to guide the Environmental Protection Agency's response to radiological emergencies, including "dirty bombs," the Superfund Report disclosed yesterday.

The Homeland Security Department first adopted the standards last month in a document outlining federal plans to respond to a terrorist nuclear or radiological weapon attack. Critics argued that the department was preparing to allow post-attack radiation levels that far exceeded normal environmental standards."

The full article can be found at: http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_8_12.html#D00FF1D3

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ADVANCED LIFE SCIENCES AWARDED U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BIODEFENSE CONTRACT VALUED AT UP TO \$3.8 MILLION

PRNewswire.com

August 13, 2008

"Advanced Life Sciences Holdings, Inc., today announced that the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded the Company a two-year contract worth up to \$3.8 million to further study cethromycin as a potential broad-spectrum medical countermeasure. The contract, part of the agency's Transformational Medical Technologies Initiative (TMTI), will fund NDA-enabling studies evaluating cethromycin's

efficacy in combating Category A and B bioterror agents such as *Francisella tularensis* (tularemia), *Yersinia pestis* (plague) and *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (melioidosis)."

"Under the terms of the contract, \$1.8 million of DTRA funds are available over a nine-month base period to initiate NDA-enabling studies measuring cethromycin's efficacy in treating tularemia and plague as well as studies to measure cethromycin's efficacy in treating melioidosis. The remaining \$2.0 million may be awarded over the ensuing 15 months to complete the project."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/08-13-2008/0004866649&EDATE=>

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